Number of child labour identified

1354. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of child labour which has been identified in the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) how many people indulging in using children for various labours in the country have been brought to book;

(c) whether the children so identified have been rehabilitated or not;

(d) whether Government is using any revised mechanism to identify the child misuse in the country and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government intends to bring in severe punishment to the offenders and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) The estimation of the number of child labour in the country State-wise, is done on the basis of the census carried out by the Registrar General of India once in every ten years. The last such Census was carried out in 2001. Therefore, yearly data regarding existence of child labour State-wise is not maintained.

(b) and (c) The Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 prohibits employment of children below the age of 14 years in 15 Occupations and 57 Processes. State Governments are the appropriate authority for the implementation of the provisions of the Act for the areas coming under their jurisdiction. As per the information received from the State Governments, prosecutions launched and convictions obtained were 77,617 and 22,657 respectively since 1997-98 to 2006-07. The children withdrawn from work are rehabilitated under the National Child Labour Scheme being implemented by the Government.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) There are adequate provisions available under the existing Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986. As per Section 14 of the Act, any person who employs a child in any occupation or process where employment of children is banned under the Act, is liable for punishment with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than 3 months but which extend to one year and or with fine ranging from Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 20,000/-.

Inadequate manpower in the EPF Organisation

1355. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inadequate manpower in the Employee's Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) coupled with lopsided and unscientific structure of field offices have resulted in a manifold increase in customer complaints, particularly with regard to recoveries and pension funds;

(b) if so,the details thereof;